



A Tradition of Stewardship  
A Commitment to Service

# Napa County Board of Supervisors

A look at the  
**Napa River-Napa Creek Flood  
Protection Project  
and its impact on  
Napa**

Supervisor Mark Luce  
Napa County, District 2

Presented to ABAG on October 12, 2011

# 22 serious floods on the Napa River since 1862



**Brown Street - 1905**



# Flood Control Act of 1965 authorizes a Napa River Project

- Designs are standard COE issue:
  - Deepen channel with dredging
  - Straighten channel – eliminate Oxbow
  - Rip rap banks of a trapezoidal channel
  - Levees and flood walls
- Proposals go to the voters in 1976 and 1977 – both are rejected

# A community coalition comes together

- 40 agencies, 400 people: Chamber of Commerce, Sierra Club, Friends of the River, NV Economic Development Corp., Farm Bureau, Land Trust, Conference and Visitors Bureau...
- A new “living river” design is created
- March 3, 1998: 27,000+ votes cast, Measure A passes by two-thirds majority.

# Achieving a Living River

- ☯ Maintain the natural slope, width, and width/depth ratio of the river
- ☯ Maintain or restore the connection of the river to its flood plain
- ☯ Allow the river to meander as much as possible
- ☯ Maintain channel features such as mudflats, shallows, sandbars, and a naturally uneven bottom
- ☯ Maintain a continuous fish and riparian corridor along the river

# Environmental Restoration

**Before**



**After**



The transformation from pasture land to wetland is gradual...







An aerial photograph showing a river bend. On the left bank, there is a large, flat, brownish area, possibly a dry riverbed or floodplain. A road runs along the top left. In the center, a cluster of buildings is situated on a slight elevation. To the right of these buildings, a long, straight floodwall runs along the riverbank. Further right, the river bends again, and there are more buildings and parking lots. A bridge with multiple arches spans the river at the bottom of the image. A blue text box with white text is in the upper right, with two white arrows pointing to the floodwall and the area to its left.

Terracing 2004  
Floodwalls Hatt to  
First St 2005



Floodwall  
incorporated into  
revamped park

*Jan 6, 2008*

# Investment Summary: Public & Private, 1997-2010 in the City of Napa

Estimated total **\$898 million**

- Construction Investment **\$605 M**
- Disclosed real estate purchases **\$293 M**

Primary catalyst: Flood Protection Project

# Development Along Napa River



**Kyser-Lui-Williams**  
(Cole's Chop House  
Ubuntu, Annalien)

**NV Opera  
House Theater**

Opera House Plaza  
at Napa Creek

First Street Bridge

Veterans Park

Third Street Bridge

Boat dock (future)

**The Riverfront**  
(Morimoto, Tyler Florence,  
Fish Story, Napa River Velo)

Fifth Street Plaza

**Napa Mill**  
(Napa River Inn,  
Celadon, Angele,  
General Store, Silo's)

Riverbend Plaza

Riverfront Promenade and Floodwalls

# Oxbow District Development



Ritz Carlton  
Hotel Site (351  
rooms)

Oxbow Public Market

Future Oxbow Commons  
(Bypass Channel)

Westin Verasa Hotel / La Toque

Wine Train



River Terrace Inn/Cuvee



# Rutherford Dust Restoration Project

